



## JMG Curriculum Project Wiki Ready for Review

The JMG curriculum is getting an update! Cindy Arnott from Learning Unlimited is writing basic and advanced lessons for each of the 37 high school competencies. The lessons will include the plan itself, worksheets, and powerpoint presentations. This curriculum is being written for YOU – so we want to know what you think!

In order to facilitate feedback on the curriculum, a wiki site has been created where these materials will be posted. A wiki is a website that allows easy editing by multiple people. The JMG Curriculum wiki will allow you to download and review (or even better - teach!) the lesson and post your thoughts. You can also suggest and post documents and website links.

Are the lessons activity based? Are they age appropriate? What supplemental resources do you use – speakers, activities, fund raising ideas? Are the assessments appropriate? This is what we want to know from you!

This year, Career Specialist Winter Training will be focused on the JMG curriculum. In order to be able to give your feedback, create your wiki account as soon as possible so you can log-on to the wiki and review the lessons before training. The creation of your wiki account will take less than 5 minutes. The directions for creating your account were included in an email from Cindy in December; if you didn't receive them, please notify your JMG program manager and they will email them to you.

The new JMG curriculum will be a big asset in planning lessons for years to come. We want the best product possible and know that JMG specialists have wonderful ideas. We appreciate your time in reviewing these lessons and look forward to hearing your feedback!

### **JOBS FOR MONTANA'S GRADUATES**

#### **IN THIS ISSUE:**

- **JMG Curriculum Project Wiki Ready for Review**
- **Career Specialist Winter Training**
- **Database Reminder**
- **Students Volunteer, Earn Money for College**
- **Upcoming Specialist Activities**
- **The Scoop Around the State**

## Career Specialist Winter Training

### February 3-4 in Helena, MT

**Dates:** Wednesday, February 3 – Thursday, February 4

**Times:** Wednesday 5:30pm – Thursday 3:00pm

**Location:** Great Northern Hotel-Best Western, Helena

**Agenda:** JMG High School Curriculum

**Additional Topics Covered:** JMG updates, CDC and Competitive Events, Website/Webinars, Best Practices, Scholarships, Fall Leadership

**Hotel Reservations:** The state hotel rate is available until January 15

**Registration:** Due by January 22

*Your invitation and registration info have been sent by mail.  
Remember to **reserve your hotel room by January 15** for the  
state rate and **register for training by January 22!***

### **DATABASE REMINDER:**

#### **eNDMS DATABASE ENTRY:**

- \* Profiles entered for any new JMG students
- \* 2009 senior follow-ups including job and school placement
- \* Model services
- \* 9<sup>th</sup> grade follow-up

**Due February 19**

# Students Volunteer, Earn Money for College

## AmeriCorps: A great opportunity for JMG students

There are many ways that students can earn money for post-secondary training. If you have students who enjoy volunteer work, AmeriCorps is a perfect option. The Young Adult Service Corps (YASC) is a program through the Jobs for Montana's Graduates Foundation and is an affiliate of the AmeriCorps National Service Network. A service learning program, YASC members provide volunteer service to schools and communities, recruit volunteers, develop leadership confidence, and receive Education Awards. Three high schools in Montana have had JMG students participate in the past: Helena High School, Roberts High School, and Bridger High School. Next year one of your students could be taking advantage of this great opportunity!

YASC members consist of high school students and recent high school graduates who are between the ages of 17-24, are U.S. citizens/residents, and have achieved or are willing to achieve a high school diploma or GED. Each student completes 300 hours of volunteer service within a year and then receives a \$1000 AmeriCorps Education Award which can be used for paying tuition at qualified institutions or applied towards payment of qualified student loans for up to seven years. Students are able to volunteer at the location of their choice as long as it meets certain specifications.

Since January 2007, YASC members have contributed over 61,000 hours of service to Montana. YASC empowers students to succeed by giving them the tools to gain valuable knowledge, learn time management skills and gain leadership confidence along with transferable work skills throughout their service commitment. This program reinforces that young adults can make a difference in their communities while growing both personally and professionally. YASC members across the state volunteer in a multitude of ways: by mentoring, educating peers on disability awareness, building safe affordable housing, advocating for teen driving safety, acting as leadership aids to elementary students and more.

In order for students to become members of YASC, they must apply by filling out an application and submitting additional materials. There are 100 positions for the state of Montana; interested students should apply as early as possible beginning now for the 2010-2011 school year as applications are considered on a first-come first-served basis. Once positions are filled, students will be placed on a waiting list in case a spot opens up.

For more information about the program check out the JMGF website at <http://www.jmgf-mt.org/ameriCorps.htm> or contact Sarah Sadowski, the AmeriCorps Program Director, at (406) 443-2413 or [ssadowski@jmgf-mt.org](mailto:ssadowski@jmgf-mt.org). Tell your students now about this opportunity to help their community and earn money for college!

## Upcoming Specialist Activities

**Webinar on February 4** Mark your calendars! During Career Specialist Winter Training, a webinar will be presented at lunchtime on Thursday, February 4. Those at training will see it and those who can't make it can tune in! More details to follow by email as the event nears.

**Specialist Newsletter Moves to Web** Our JMG website is up-to-date with recent information, including the past two year's worth of newsletters. Look for the next edition of the specialist newsletter on our website; we will email you a link to access it there when we post it in March.

## CONTACT US

Jim Lambert  
Program Manager  
[jlambert@mt.gov](mailto:jlambert@mt.gov)  
444-3354

Lucille Thomason  
Program Manager  
[lthomason@mt.gov](mailto:lthomason@mt.gov)  
444-2534

Jenny Veltri  
Program Manager  
[jveltri@mt.gov](mailto:jveltri@mt.gov)  
444-1713

Drea Brown  
State Director  
[dbrown@mt.gov](mailto:dbrown@mt.gov)  
444-0978

## The Scoop Around the State

Thank you to those who reported on what your JMG classes are doing! The list below summarizes what's been happening — and has some great ideas for your own class.

**Billings Career Center:** Participated in "Saturday Live," a fundraiser Billings (usually raise around \$1,000 for JMG class), made trick or treat sacks with healthy treats for 200 pre-school students at the Career Center Early Childhood Department, raised money to provide Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to several families, sponsored a family at Christmas by raising money for presents and food cards. Will work with H&R Block, who provides money to the program for community activities, to provide free tax returns to students as well as discounts to parents and teachers. Throughout the year: help sponsor Student of The Month activities by providing coffees, lattes and Italian Sodas to the winners; provide popcorn snack every Friday to teachers, staff and janitors; provide healthy snacks to the student body during breaks; run the school Print Shop and recycle waste paper into note pads, sketch books, and office forms.

**Butte High School:** Assisted Butte Cares Organization with clothing drive and Human Resources Council Dist. XII with their Christmas toy event; students sorted donated clothing and toys and arranged them for community members.

**Cascade High School:** Working through Big Brothers/Big Sisters with the Elementary students once a week and have scheduled a future blood drive.

**Culbertson High School and Middle School:** Participated in the operation Christmas Child Shoe box program, began a "Friday Flyer" newspaper for the Elementary school that goes out every Friday, toured the Sidney Job Service Agency, visited new library and applied for library cards, created an interactive bulletin board for the KnowHow2GO site, and prepared, served and cleaned up a meal for two soldiers who were home from the war. Also began a "business" of preparing and selling candy bouquets; proceeds are going to help with the shipping for care packages to our adopted soldiers. Middle school students began the "Real Game" and are currently scheduling guest speakers and planning to host a screening of the "Darius Goes West" documentary. High school students are working on preparing a meal to raise funds for Darius's cause.

**Dodson High School:** Working on letters of application, resumes, portfolios, telephone etiquette, and group dynamics. Beginning a project of making note pads.

**Fromberg High School:** Sponsored a drive for Toys for Tots, distributed cookies to the elderly community, made and sold recycled cards and notepads, and have completed several group leadership activities. Students also write journal entries and run the student store.

**Glasgow High School:** Completed inventory assessments on themselves and researched different careers; each student will pick one that they will present to the class with a powerpoint presentation and research two colleges that offer a degree in that job/career category. Planned Christmas Bowling Party and sold candy canes. Planning job shadowing and a fundraiser called "Pennies for Patients." Throughout the year: lead the school with the Pledge of Allegiance each week, work concessions, help the baseball program twice a year, and deliver fliers for Red Cross blood drawings three times a year.

**Helena High School:** Decorated 16 Christmas trees for the Festival of Trees for Intermountain's Children's Hospital, painted holiday posters for teachers at school as a fundraiser for Toys for Tots, and held a school competition to encourage students to bring toys.

**Judith Gap High School:** Went to the mountains and got Christmas trees for school staff and community members, working on filling out scholarship applications and researching colleges, and will organize school-wide Fun Day activities for the day before vacation.

**Lame Deer High School:** Helped sponsor big Harvest Tea in which invitations were sent out to community leaders and organizations, worked on Thanksgiving Dinner in the classroom and took plates of food to those who couldn't make it to the dinner (over 75 adults attended). Decorated classroom and Christmas tree in the commons area, learned Christmas music and planned to go Christmas Caroling in community, took magazines to the Shoulderblade Senior Citizens Center. Future plans include helping in the elementary school by reading to, with, and listening to first/second graders reading books.

**Libby High School:** Created jack-o-lanterns in October for the Rosauers party using donated pumpkins, helped set-up and work the Speech, Drama & Debate tournament, and cut Christmas trees and made decorations for local shut-ins.

**Nashua High School:** Worked on the elementary school grounds to create more games to play, organized a school food drive, joined with FCCLA to "adopt a family" at Christmas and help provide gifts and a Christmas dinner to a local family in need, decorated the school for Christmas and planned a Christmas party. Currently brainstorming ideas to improve school grounds.

**Plains High School:** Participated in Highway clean-up, Red Ribbon Week, Brain Bash, Blood Drive, Dress for Success, Career Fair, Fall Leadership Conference, and Birthday Buddies. Sponsor Root beer float Fridays once a month and bring in two leadership speakers and two career speakers each quarter. If funds permit, will plan a camping trip in the spring.

**Powell County High School:** Attended University of Montana days in Missoula to learn about the college experience, arranged to visit the elementary school to pass out Halloween candy, glowsticks and present tips for staying safe on Halloween, and planned annual "Christmas Giveaway" in which JMG collected donations of new and gently used gift items from the community for needy families in the community. Run the "JMG cafe" throughout the year, a program which includes sack lunches every Tues, donuts on the first Friday of each month, pizza on the last Friday of each month, and a monthly bake sale.

**Troy High School:** Worked with Toys for Tots, did yard work, planned holiday party and gift exchange, and held fundraisers including a raffle drawing, candy guess, and candy cane grams. Future projects are a spring blood drive, painting the school dumpsters, volunteering at the elementary school, outings to dinner, plays, and field trips, job shadowing, guest career speakers, and a presentation on banking.

**Webster Garfield Alternative School:** Assisted Butte Human Resources Council Dist. XII with their Christmas toy event by sorting donated toys, assisting those coming in with selections, and be there to make sure there are enough toys to go around.